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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/719,759	12/14/2000	Roland Lippert	LIPPERT	4096

20151 7590 10/20/2004
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NEW YORK, NY 10118

EXAMINER

SICONOLFI, ROBERT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3683

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/719,759

Applicant(s)

LIPPERT ET AL. *SL*

Examiner

Robert A. Siconolfi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6,9,10 and 12-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 9,10, 13-19, and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lott (U. S. Patent no. 1,995,571) in view of Chiba (U. S. Patent no. 5,332,318).

Lott discloses: Inner race 14, outer race 11, rollers 13, Groove 15, T shaped ring 16,17 which can be formed integrally (see column 2 lines 18-20) with slot as seen in figure 1, Outer collars 12, central collar 11 which can be placed on the inner race (see column 2 lines 16-18),

Lott does not disclose having the groove and the t shaped ring on the outer race. Chiba teaches placing the groove and the t shaped ring on the outer race (see figure 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place the groove and t shaped ring on the outer race as such is merely a design choice.

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With regard to claims 14, 15, 23, and 24, Lott, as modified, does not teach coating the ring with a antifriction coating such as PTFE. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to coat the ring with PTFE since the ring is in contact with the rolling elements as seen in the figure of Lott and thereby eliminating friction between the ring and the rollers cause heat and wear thus extending the life of the bearing setup. The applicant has requested a citation that the use of PTFE is known to reduce friction. The examiner cites Automotive Handbook by Bosch 3rd Edition page 211 which states that PTFE has a low coefficient of friction and is used for sliding parts. The ring is in sliding contact with the rollers.

4. Claims 12 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lott, as modified, as applied to claims 9 and 16 above, and further in view of Reiter (U. S. Patent no. 4,336,971).

Lott, as modified, is relied upon as above. Lott, as modified, does not disclose sealing elements on the outer collars of the inner race. Reiter teaches sealing elements on the outer collar of the inner race (see seals 66). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have sealing elements on the outer collar of the inner race as taught by Reiter in the bearing setup of Lott, as modified, in order to prevent dirt and debris from entering thus causing damage to the bearings.

5. Claims 6 and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lott, as modified, as applied to claims 9 and 16 above, and further in view of Haenel (U. S. Patent no. 3,954,313).

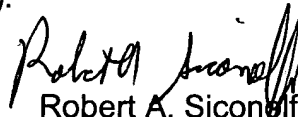
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Lott, as modified, is relied upon as above. Lott, as modified, does not disclose the use of lubricating bores. Haenel teaches the use of lubricating bores. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have lubricating bores as taught by Haenel in the bearing of Lott as such allows for a more robust bearing. The lubrication reduces friction and heat leading to longer life.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert A. Siconolfi whose telephone number is 703-305-0580. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10 am-3 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Lavinder can be reached on (703) 308-3421. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 10/10/04
Robert A. Siconolfi
Examiner
Art Unit 3683

RS